

## Message Text

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44

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 275547

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS REFORM CHRONOLOGY

REFERENCE: STATE 268707

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1. TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERA-

TION OF AN IMPORTANT TOPIC IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS, THIS TELEGRAM PRESENTS CURRENT VIEWS ON REFORM OF THE OAS WHICH WILL BE GIVEN TO ARA CHIEFS OF MISSION ON THEIR ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 24.

2. "IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR PERSONAL EXPRESSION OF VIEWS DURING CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE, THIS REPRESENTS DISTILLATION OF OUR THINKING ON TACTICS AS WELL AS STRATEGY OF OAS REFORM. OUR PRESENT INCLINATION IS TO VIEW REVISED CHARTER AS WORSE THAN EXISTENT ONE AND HARD FOR US TO ACCEPT WITHOUT STRONG RESERVATIONS. RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON INADEQUACIES OF OLD OR NEW CHARTER, HOWEVER, WE WANT TO DISCUSS POSITIVE CHANGES THAT WILL EQUIP OAS TO DEAL WITH NEW REALITY.

3. "THE ORGANIZATION CONTINUES TO SERVE A NUMBER OF PRESENT AND CONCEIVABLE FUTURE PURPOSES IMPORTANT TO INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBERS. MOST OBVIOUS ARE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND RELATIVELY REASONABLE INTERSTATE RELATIONS IN HEMISPHERE. IT ALSO PROVIDES USEFUL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND OFFERS A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF MORE STABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AWAY FROM TENSIONS OF NEWER WORLD ORGANIZATIONS.

4. "PRESENT STRUCTURE SEEMS ILL-ADAPTED TO LAST OBJECTIVE WHICH QUICKLY EMERGING AS MOST SERIOUS TOPIC OF INTERNATIONAL DEBATE. TOO MUCH OF ENERGY OF OAS LOST IN ORGANIZATIONAL TRIVIA, ABSTRACT DISCUSSION OR POLEMICS. FINALLY, WE THINK MORALE AND IMAGE OF ORGANIZATION SUFFER FROM WIDELY-HELD VIEW IT IS INSTRUMENT OF U.S. HEGEMONY.

5. "NEW CHARTER IS WHOLLY UNRESPONSIVE TO THESE CONCERNS. IT HAS FORCED US TO CONSIDER BROADER QUESTION OF PURPOSE OF OAS AND WE ARE DEVELOPING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO ENHANCE ITS FUNCTIONING. OTHER MEMBERS HAVE SIMILAR OR CONTRARY VIEWS BUT NEED NOW IS FOR VARIETY OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. MEMBER STATES HAVE TO DECIDE WHICH CONTEMPORARY ISSUES CAN BE TREATED IN HEMISPHERIC CONTEXT AND RESTRUCTURE OAS TO DEAL WITH THEM.

6. "WE WANT TO SUSPEND DISCUSSION OF NEW CHARTER UNTIL  
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EVERYONE HAS HAD A CHANCE TO CONSULT AND NEW PROPOSALS OR OPTIONS BEGIN TO EMERGE. SUCCESS OF SUCH A MOTION IN PERMANENT COUNCIL WILL REQUIRE DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS FROM FOREIGN OFFICES WHICH IN TURN WILL REQUIRE DIRECT CONSULTATIONS WITH THOSE MOST INVOLVED IN REFORM PROCESS TO DATE.

7. "IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING COM CONFERENCE AND THANKSGIVING WEEKEND, WE PROPOSE TO MAKE A FORMAL STATEMENT ALONG

THESE LINES TO GENERAL COMMITTEE OR PERMANENT COUNCIL. SIMULTANEOUSLY, WE WOULD SEND TEAM OF QTE MISSIONARIES UNQTE FROM ARA/USOAS TO EXPLAIN BACKGROUND OF OUR PROPOSALS TO OFFICIALS OF SELECTED FOREIGN MINISTRIES. FOR OTHERS, WE WOULD REQUEST RETURNING CHIEFS OF MISSION TO UNDERTAKE THIS EDUCATIVE EFFORT, BASED ON BRIEFINGS HERE. BEYOND EDUCATION, OBJECTIVE IS TO ENLIST MINISTRIES' BEST THINKING ON WHETHER OAS. TENTATIVE DATE FOR THESE TWO INITIATIVES IS DECEMBER 1; WE SHALL INDICATE SPECIFIC DATES OF VISITS TO YOUR COUNTRY IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

8. "IF WE LOSE BATTLE TO DERAIL NEW CHARTER'S PROGRESS IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OR IN PERMANENT COUNCIL, WE WILL CONTINUE THE FIGHT TO EXPAND DISCUSSION FROM RESIDENT OAS DELEGATIONS TO CAPITALS THEMSELVES, ATTEMPTING TO FOCUS ATTENTION OF BOTH ON OUR POSITIVE REFORM EFFORTS RATHER THAN OBJECTIONS TO NEW CHARTER. IF UNAVAILING, OUR CAMPAIGN WILL CONCLUDE WITH QTE NO UNQTE VOTE ON NEW CHARTER AT EITHER PERMANENT COUNCIL STAGE (APPROXIMATELY DECEMBER 20) OR AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JUNE.

9. "ABOVE REPRESENTS OUR CURRENT THOUGHTS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL ASPECTS OF OAS REFORM. YOUR VIEWS WILL BE MOST WELCOME IN FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS."

10. STATE 268707 REPEATED TO YOU TODAY PROVIDES BACKGROUND ON OAS CHARTER REFORM TO DATE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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